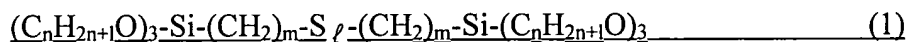


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire having a tread formed of a rubber composition for a tire tread comprising:

100 parts by weight of a rubber component containing at least 5 % by weight of natural rubber graft-copolymerized with an organic compound having an unsaturated bond and/or epoxidized natural rubber, and

5 to 150 parts by weight of ~~carbon black and/or~~ silica with a nitrogen-absorbing specific surface area of 100 to 300 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and a silane coupling agent which fulfills the following formula (1)



wherin in said formula (1) n is an integer of 1 to 3, m is an integer of 1 to 4,  $\ell$  is an integer of 2 to 8 and the average value of  $\ell$  is 2.1 to 3.5, wherein protein within said natural rubber graft-copolymerized with an organic compound having an unsaturated bond and epoxidized natural rubber contains an amount of at most 0.10 % by weight converted to nitrogen content.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition for a tire tread~~ pneumatic tire of Claim 1, wherein a silane coupling agent is contained in an amount of 1 to 20 % by weight of said silica.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

7. (New) The pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein the silica is present in an amount of 15 to 100 parts by weight.

8. (New) The pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein the silane coupling agent is present in an amount of 2 to 15% by weight of the weight of silica.

9. (New) The pneumatic tire of claim 6, wherein the silane coupling agent is present in an amount of 2 to 15% by weight of the weight of silica.

10. (New) The pneumatic tire of claim 7, wherein the silane coupling agent is present in an amount of 2 to 15% by weight of the weight of silica.

11. (New) The pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein the silane coupling agent is selected from the group consisting of bis(3-triethoxysilylpropyl)polysulfide, bis(2-triethoxysilylethyl)polysulfide, bis(3-trimethoxysilylpropyl)polysulfide, bis(2-trimethoxysilylethyl)polysulfide, bis(4-triethoxysilylbutyl)polysulfide and bis(4-trimethoxysilylbutyl) polysulfide.